THE

MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO
AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,

LIVE STOCK
and RURAL ECONOMY.

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Address of Col. S. S. Bradford.

(Concluded from page 275.)

The remarks of my friend, Dr. Ellzey, on Merino sheep-husbandry I did not distinctly hear. I should be sorry, Mr. President, to appear egotistical or to assert my opinions and practices dogmatically, and if in illustration of a principle I refer to myself or my methods, I hope it will be charitably construed. I have had thirty years' conduct of sheep-husbandry, and chiefly Merino. Well-bred American Merino sheep, of Spanish extraction, yield from 50 to 100 per centum more wool to their live weight and to the food consumed than the coarse wool varieties do, and until late years its market value per pound was about 33⅓ per cent. higher. Merino wethers, two to five years old, and ewes (after breeding) six to eight, fatten readily, and their mutton is unsurpassed. This fact is not generally known, however, and they are not fashionable or popular with the butcher. They do not tallow excessively; their flesh marbles, and the butcher does not find in the fat Merino, as he does in a fat Cotswold, surplus tallow to coat over a poor carcass and make it saleable. With wool as a primary and mutton a secondary object, well-bred Merinos could then compete for profit under any circumstances, with any other breed. But of late years improved machinery has given greater utility to the coarse fibre, and fine wool is worth no more than the coarse, and not as much as the middle staple. The Merino is of greater longevity, but of slower growth and later maturity than the larger breeds. Their lambs cannot easily be made large and fat enough for the early spring market — the only season when lambs sell at very good prices—and for these reasons, with conditions favorable to making good mutton and early lambs of the larger breeds, the Merino is less profitable. But there are thousands of acres so rough and of herbage so meagre, as to be incapable of making profitable mutton or lambs of the larger breeds, where the more active and hardier Merino would thrive and yield a good fleece, and, with addition of little grain, good mutton, and afford a respectable revenue from land that otherwise cannot be made immediately profitable, and would gradually improve its fertility and herbage, and ultimately fit it for more profitable methods of culture. The best sheep I have handled for combination of wool and mntton, is at present, a cross of Merino and one of the larger breeds. It yields a heavier and more valuable fleece; is hardier, and fattens more easily; of better flavor and quality of flesh, and, at same age, weighs nearly as much as its larger progenitor.

Mr. President, with the statement that the Shorthorn, where good pasture and forage abound, is the best general-purpose race of cattle, and for beef as a specialty if it has an equal has certainly no superior, I am in perfect accord; but I cannot accept the opinion that it is, under all circumstances, or for all purposes, the best breed for the farmer. On moderate pasturage and forage the Devon is his superior for general purposes, and can be made profitable when the Shorthorn cannot be maintained. For milk, butter, and the yoke, as specialties, the Shorthorn is not so desirable as the Ayreshire, Jersey, and Devon respectively. I am a breeder of Shorthorns, Mr. President, my herd is a principal source of my living. I can have no wish to do them injustice or disparagement. I have them for sale, and for six years have not had a bull calf to remain

on my hands twelve months. Formerly I was a breeder of Devons and Merinos. They were then best adapted to the character and condition of my farm; but now, with not two, but twenty blades of grass where one then grew, I find Shorthorn cattle and the mutton breeds of sheep more profitable. I still have a fine flock of thoroughbred Merinos. My profit from them is in furnishing rams and ewes for the improvement of other flocks. Why, you may ask, were Devons and Merinos formerly, but Shorthorns and Cotswolds now, more profitable to me? The reasons will manifest themselves in a few illustrations. The theory is generally, if not universally, accepted among intelligent live-stock men, that animals consume food in proportion to their live weight, and that 3 per cent. of their live weight of food, of the nutritious value of good timothy hay, is required daily to replace the daily waste through their pores, lungs, and other natural passages. The average weight of the Shorthorn is about 50 per cent. greater than that of the Devon and other small breeds of cattle of same age. We will estimate the Shorthorn, three years old, at 1,500 pounds; the Devon, same age, at 1,000 pounds. To supply his daily waste the Shorthorn will need daily 45 pounds of food equivalent to hay; the Devon 30 pounds With these quantities respectively they will maintain their *status quo*—neither increase or decrease. Place them in a field of such herbage that 30 pounds of hay equivalent is all that each can gather in a day. The Devon would remain as he is; the Shorthorn would daily decline. Where they could each receive 45 pounds daily, the Shorthorn would be stationary—the Devon daily increase. Transfer them to a rich, luxuriant pasture, where they could readily gather all they are capable of appropriating, and the Shorthorn, with 50 per cent greater capacity for gathering, digesting and assimilating food, will in that proportion each day consume more food and add more to his frame and weight than the Devon. Rear them alike from calf hood, and the Shorthorn, of quicker growth and earlier maturity, with greater capacity for assimilating food, will consume yearly 50 per cent. more food and increase 50 per cent. faster, and, at two years old, be about as heavy as the Devon at three. The Devon, in the third year of his growth, will probably consume as much food as he did in the two previous years, and his 1,000 pounds produced in three years will have cost considerably more than the Shorthorn's 1,000 pounds produced in two. The same relative proportions obtain in respect to small and large breeds of sheep. Hence the Devon and Merino are more profitable in meagre or moderate conditions of supply—the Shorthorn and Cotswold where they are rich and abundant. For special purposes, the Devon, with sufficient weight—and sufficient weight can be given him by proper care from calf hood to maturity—has no equal for the yoke. As a typical butter race the Jersey has acknowledged preeminence above all breeds, but it is preferable, perhaps, for nothing else under the sun. For milk, without regard to quality, the Ayreshire claims supremacy. An Ayreshire cow of 800 pounds and a Shorthorn of 1,200 younds (about their relative weights), yielding each daily six gallons of milk of like quality, the Ayreshire consuming one-third less of same food daily than the Shorthorn, her six gallons would cost one-third less than the Shorthorn's six gallons, and for that special purpose she is in that proportion more economical. But when the milking period is over, and they are turned into rich pastures or to other nutritious food for beef, the Shorthorn asserts her superiority. She will consume daily one third more food, and daily make one-third more flesh than the Ayreshire—is capable of converting a given quantity of food into meat in one-third less time than the Ayreshire, and when both are ripe for the shambles, the Shorthorn, by reason of her larger percentage of offal than the Ayreshire,, will command in market a higher price per pound.

Shorthorn breeders have generally given little attention to dairy qualities. Meat has been their almost sole object, and the practice of letting the calf run with the cow until six months old, and then drying her off quickly to better prepare her system for the succeeding calf, greatly weakens her milk-producing capacity, and, if the disability extends through several generations, becomes constitutional and transmissible to the progeny. There are, however, some excellent dairy families of Shorthorns, and some individuals that for

quantity, quality and duration of milk, are not surpassed, and by careful selection and judicious breeding they might, as a breed, be brought in a few generations to the highest standard of profitable dairy production.

Farm Work for October.

We are now getting, with the month of October, to the end of the planting season; and after the wheat seeding is finished the principal work will be to gather and store away the corn and such roots or tubers that mature late in the season Of course, so long as the weather remains open there is a good deal of work which may be done on the farm, both for the purpose of winding up well the work of the year and in the way of preparation for spring crops. In all heavy soils where clay predominates it is undoubtedly a judicious practice to break up the fields which are to be put in crops early next year, and then give them the benefit of the mellowing and disintegrating influence of the winter frosts. There is also ditching to be done and fences to repair, wood to be cut for fall and future use on the farm, and a general clearing up to be instituted before the hard weather sets in. Independently of these suggestions we give the work for the month as follows:

Seeding Wheat.

It is best to have wheat sown by the 10th of the month, but later will do if the land has been well prepared. We have said so much about the sowing of this grain in previous numbers that we deem it only now necessary to sum up the essential requisites for a reasonable expectation of a good yield of grain. A clover ley on a clay loam, good seed, clean, plump and heavy which has been grown on a poorer soil or from a northern latitude. The grain should not be sown deeper than one or two inches, but well covered. The drill is to be preferred to broadcasting Four to five pecks per acre if drilled, but two bushels if broadcast.

Grass Seeds.

It is a good practice to sow grass seeds with wheat. It is not too late to sow them by themselves if so desired. The danger is sowing too little seed per acre and covering too deep. Two to three bushels of orchard grass seed per acre. Two gallons of timothy, or 15 pounds of red top, the latter is most suitable to low, moist land. In the spring one to two gallons of clover seed to each acre. If seeds are sown in the fall, we think it would be better to sow broadcast after the wheat has been sown, while the land has been freshly stirred and roll it in During mid-winter when the ground has dried after hard frosts, or early in spring, roll again so as to compress the earth about the roots of the plants which frost and thawing have heaved out of the ground or exposed the roots The roller is an all important implement, and properly used will often save a crop, especially a grass crop, which is so liable to have its tender roots destroyed by exposure to the hot sun after being partly dislodged by the action of frost.

Rye.

Rye should have been seeded six weeks ago. Late seeding rarely prospers so well. But if the seeding has been delayed the ground should be made correspondingly rich and the seed put in at once A sandy loam or a dry alluvial bottom is the best for rye.

Orchards.

Treat these as previously advised. Cut off all dead limbs and water shoots smooth and close to the bark. Cover the wounds thus made with a mixture composed of equal parts of tar, rosin and bees wax. Scrape the mossy and scaly bark and wash with soft soap, sulphur and salt. A gallon of the first to a pound of the second and a quart of the third well mixed together

Planting New Orchards.

Now is the time to plant new orchards Many persons wait until the spring, but the pressure at that season is very apt to cause the work of planting to be done carelessly; moreover trees planted in the fall start better in the spring if they have been well protected through the winter. Make the holes for the trees large and deep, trim off all bruised roots, fill in with rich soil, giving water occasionally, and finish by staking and mulching.

Cattle Yards.

Collect throughout the fall all sorts of litter for compost and for bedding cattle through the winter where the supply of straw is deficient

Pumpkins and Roots.

These should now be harvested and carefully stowed away where they can be kept dry and secure from frost.

Milch Cows and Young Stock.

Take particular care of these See that they are well and regularly fed with good provender, and give them occasional messes of slops and roots. Comfortable shedding should of course be provided.

Buckwheat.

See that the buckwheat is harvested before the frost injures the grain Commence cutting as soon as one-half the heads have turned black, and be careful in gathering, as the grain is very apt to shatter.

Fall Plowing.

Stiff, hard clays intended for tillage in the spring ought by all means to be broken up in the fall A light, sandy loam should, on the contrary, be suffered to remain unbroken.

Garden Work for October.

The following is the work remaining to be done in the garden this month.

Winter Spinach.—This of course has been, or ought to have been, already seeded, and is presumed to be in good growing condition. It should now be carefully weeded and the plants thinned out to stand four inches apart. If the soil is not very rich, a top-dressing of well-rotted barn yard manure will be found serviceable to the growing plants and will also serve as a partial protection to them throughout the winter.

Lettuce—Set these out in a warm border as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Dig the ground well and well manure it. In setting out the plants let them stand six inches apart, and when cold weather sets in protect them with a light covering of brushwood and straw.

Setting out Cabbage Plants—Early in the month manure the required bed heavily, and spade it well in, giving the preference to a southern or southeastern exposure. Throw the soil into parallel ridges three feet apart and four inches high. Press the slopes of the ridges compactly down with the back of the spade and then set the plants about mid-way of the hedge and on the north side of it. The plants should stand about six inches apart. Towards the close of November strew stable manure or loose straw along the valleys between the ridges and to about the height at which the plants stand in the row. Leave all this through the winter. Early in the spring, as soon as the frost is out of the ground, draw the earth from the crests of the ridges into the valleys with a hoe so as to level the entire surface. Thin out the plants for use as soon as they are sufficiently advanced in growth. Keep the soil loose and the bed free from weeds as the season advances, and as the remaining plants begin to expand draw earth about their roots, and at the third and last working give them a final hoeing and dressing up.

Cauliflower and Broccoli—Work these carefully during the month and keep the soil loose and clear. Towards the end of the month commence to hill them.

Asparagus Beds—Mow all off and clean thoroughly the asparagus beds as soon as the stems begin to turn yellow. Fork the soil over lightly and finish by top-dressing the beds liberally, first with well rotted stable manure, and over this a mixture of salt and aches, the proportion being three parts of salt to one of ashes.

Celery—Earth up celery from time to time and water freely in dry weather.

Small Salading—The final seedings for the season may be made during the first half of this month.

Rhubarb, or Pie Plant — Rhubarb seed sown during this month will advance the plants a year over those seeded next spring.

Chalots, Garlics and Chives—All these roots should be planted out during this month.

Horse Radish—Plant out a bed of this wholesome condiment early in the month. The crowns of old roots will speedily strike, and when once they obtain root-hold there will be no difficulty in perpetuating them.

Raspberries, Gooseberries, Currants—New plantations of these excellent small fruits may now be set out. Plant the raspberries four feet apart in the row, and the gooseberries and currants at a distance of six feet apart. Of these last cuttings may now be taken and planted in a warm border, ready to set out the following autumn or the succeeding spring.

Strawberries—Clean off the beds and top-dress liberally with well-rotted manure and wood ashes.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Improvement of Lands by Drainage.

BY JOHN FEAST, SR.

This is an important matter in both branches of agriculture and horticulture to have the ground properly drained before any manure or crops are put in, as it is useless and a waste of both time and money in thus trying to obtain anything like a fair return for your labor without you have soil that is open and not caked up as are generally found for want of proper drainage. Manures are, in a manner, thrown away, as this will clearly show, by taking up a piece of low moist ground which has been laid waste and never before been in cultivation, manure one-half and put it in the best possible order for cropping without draining, using the same means with the other half but perfectly drained without manure, planted with same kind of seed or plants, will, on an average, produce a far better crop, which shows that drainage is a very important matter in obtaining any kind of crops, either annual or perennial; in the planting of trees or pot plants this should be more generally observed, as nothing will thrive if too much moisture allowed to be at the roots of plants, except they are of an aquatic nature living in water. It is not wonderful then, that the economical effects of drainage should be found by practical men, to be not only a dimunition in the cost of cultivation, but a considerably augmented produce also in all crops, or that this increased produce should alone be found sufficient to pay the entire cost of drainage in a few years. The deeper the drains, provided the water have still a ready escape, the greater depth of soil will be available, for the purposes of vegetable nutrition. Deep rooted plants often fail for want of certain depth of soil owing to shallow drains which prevents their decent in search of food; plants like wheat or clover will send their roots deep in subsoil to seek nourishment where the sub-soil is sound and dry. Removing the waters the soil becomes dry to a greater depth. the air penetrates and diffuses itself, makes it more porous and gives more nourishment to the roots. Deep drains permit the use of sub-soil plows, without the charge of injury, not only less liable to be choked up by the accumulated roots of plants, which naturally make their way into them in search of water, but they also increase the value and permanent fertility of the lands by increasing its available depth. It is not till the land is rendered dry that the skillful and enterprising farmer has a fair field to expend his exertions. All manures are in a manner thrown away where water is allowed to stagnate or rest in the soil. Have dry fields to work upon and the well constructed agriculturist can bring all the resources, as well of modern science as of old experience, to bear upon them with a fair chance of success, the disappointments which the holder of undrained lands so often meets with, he will less frequently experience, an adequate return will generally be obtained for his expenditure in manuring and otherwise improving his soil, and he will thus be encouraged to proceed in devoting his capital to the permanent amelioration of his farm, not less for his own benefit but of others. Viewed in this light drainage is only the first of a long series of improvements, or rather it is a necessary preparation to the numerous improvements of which the soil is susceptable; it confers a national benefit to the country, and every good citizen ought to exercise his influence in endeavoring in his own district more or less rapidly to promote it. It has been calculated that the drainage of those lands which are at present in arable culture, would give an immense increase to the already produce now raised. General drainage cannot be effected in any given time. The individual resources of the land owner are not sufficient to meet the expenses, only in some as to wealth, nevertheless may lead to stimulate the exertions of those who have capital to spare or such an excess of income as can permit them to invest an annual portion permanently in the soil. Not only is this drainage, as stated equivalent. But to a change of better climate and to the growth of plants and crops of all kinds, besides the health of the inhabitants and to the number and kind of diseases of which they are observed to be exposed by this drainage, certain sections in the country which at one time were very unhealthy have now been cultivated and thickly populated.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Use of Plaster and Ashes.

Practice would seem to demonstrate that the effect of fertilizers depends very much upon the time and manner of application.

Plaster, (sulphate of lime) and ashes are both considered efficient when used upon certain crops and under certain conditions. Thus it is generally believed that a good surface application of ashes to meadow or pasture lands, unless the soil is too wet, in which case they should not be used, say at the rate of from two to three hundred bushels per acre, will produce not only a great increase of grass for the time being, but that the effects will be lasting for many years. Cases have been cited in which a large application of ashes having been made, the visible effects have been very marked, even twenty-five years afterwards

It has been the privilege of the writer to visit farms in Fairfield county, Conn., and over fields where ashes are a favorite fertilizer, and no more luxuriant pasturage could be desired than was to be found where ashes alone had been used years before.

Again, passing into Litchfield, Conn., and we are told that a surface application of plaster at the rate of one bushel per acre, acts as a charm in inducing the grass to grow. Here, fattening cattle is pursued to considerable extent in some localities, and by the use of a little plaster occasionally, and feeding the pastures with the cat tle which are sold in the fall, the land is kept in a rich condition, furnishing the most luxuriant grazing.

Norman P. Little, of Columbia, Conn., is the owner of a steam saw mill, and has been in the habit of selling the ashes made from his furnace, but last season spread them upon his mowing lands and so marked was the beneficial effect, in almost doubling the quantity of hay, that he says he shall never sell any more.

Both plaster and ashes work much better upon dry than upon wet land.

They are both recommended for cultivated crops, and especially is plaster recommended as a dressing for tops of potatoes just as they are breaking through the soil or at the time of hoeing, by sprinkling the same over the tops. Ashes are used very advantageously as a suface dressing for the corn crop, spreading a small handfull about each hill just previous to hoeing or a shower. They are also excellent as a top dressing for onions, but should be scattered just previous to a shower of rain, so as to be taken immediately into the soil. They are beneficial to the onion crop when used at time of planting, and this crop appears to have a particular affinity for ashes and does much better if they are plentifully used.

Plaster and ashes mixed together work well in some cases. We have used a mixture of that kind upon potatoes, using two parts of ashes to one of plaster, spreading the compound after dropping the seed upon previously manured soil, producing an increase of twenty-five per cent. in the yield. This was a result of one trial only, on a soil inclined to gravelly loam, possessing an average amount of moisture and in a wet season. What the result would be under other circumstances we cannot say. There are also results from an application of ashes and plaster that are difficult of explanation.

Some years since, A. F. James, of New York, planted potatoes the last of April, harvesting the same the last of September. Nine rows were tried; on the first, fourth and seventh no manure or fertilizer was used; on the third, sixth and ninth, plaster; on the second, fifth and eighth, ashes; the result was as follows:—

1st row	No manure	produced	60 lbs.
2nd "	Ashes	"	56½ "
3rd "	Plaster	"	50 "
4th "	No manure	"	80 "
5th "	Ashes	"	68 "
6th "	Plaster	"	66 "
7th "	No Manure	"	95¼ "
8th "	Ashes	"	67 "
9th "	Plaster	"	66½ "
No manure,	3 rows	produced	235½ pounds
Ashes	3 "	"	191¼ "
Plaster	3 "	"	180½ "

Showing that where ashes were used the product was less than where nothing was used, and where the plaster was used still less.

An experiment of a similar character was made some years since by John A. Hutchins, of Columbia, Conn., producing similar results but not as marked. Probably the application was not wholly lost, but that

other crops were benefited in a greater degree. The results might have been owing to some peculiar condition of soil in both cases and other tests might be very different. WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.
Columbia, Conn.

The Address of President Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Before the New England Horticultural Society,

Held at Manchester, N. H., on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of September, 1883.

After congratulating the association on its 20th annual meeting, and proving by facts and statistics that during the 20 years of its existence, New England agriculture had materially improved through its influence, and comparing the present with the past in the rapid development of new appliances for wonderful progress in the pursuits of the farmer, he spoke as follows:

"To him who cultivates the soil, therefore, sound investigation and well-directed science are of the utmost importance. The manufacturer has found that only the best designer can make his goods attractive, only the best chemist can prepare his dyes, only the best engineer can organize the forces of his mill, only the best methods which diligence, skill and ingenuity can devise are adapted to his purpose. A pretender is as dangerous to him as fire and flood and a falling market. Pseudo-science which calls upon the imagination for its facts, and is satisfied with a non-essential conclusion drawn from a bewildering accumulation of non-essential facts is fatal to him. That tendency of mental activity and mental ambition to look upon well-known facts as "stale, flat and unprofitable," and to glean everywhere for new ones, that lofty difiance of the theorist which rejects with contempt the cold results of practice, while it gives us the great leader in thought and invention, gives us also the empiric and the enthusiast, to delude us with false promises and mislead us with boasting and assurance. In all the realms of thought and in all the realms of practice it is this way that danger lies.

The development of agriculture thus far has been largely in the hands of those who have been practically engaged in it. To the farmers themselves, we owe the sound foundations of the industry. It is they who in all times have cleared the forests, have introduced judicious and successful modes of tilling the soil, have improved the breeds of domestic animals adapted to their wants, have developed every variety of fruit, have selected the grasses best fitted for forage, have established in all latitudes those methods by which the earth could best respond to their call. There has not yet been found a civilized or half-civilized nation without a system of farming, adapted to its wants, its location, its markets—not always perfect but always so remunerative as to satisfy those engaged in it. The cultivators of tea in China, of hemp in Russia, of sugar in the tropics, of wheat around the Black Sea, of rice in India, of vineyards in France, understand their business, and have laid the foundation of systems upon which all improvements must be built. In the practical investigations from which new knowledge can be derived we can rely upon this great class of experts for methods and principles which can be carried on to new economies and improvements. We can always learn of them. He who has grown two tons of hay to the acre, and a hundred bushels of corn, and twenty-five bushels of wheat, and great root crops, and has successfully cultivated an orchard or a vineyard must inevitably be a good teacher; and we can always learn of him. When we step beyond this into the regions of science, we must learn of those who are as well informed in scientific investigations as this successful farm is in his practice. He is a poor farmer who raises poor crops, and selects poor animals, and lays down a poor system; and he is a poor investigator who labors to defend a theory, and proclaims an irrelevant conclusiou as the result of an accumulation of feeble facts.—Leaving the farm, therefore, and the valuable information to be gained from successful experiments, the next step should be toward those institutions which have been endowed for scientific teaching and exploration. We cannot well stop half way between the club and the school,—between the farm and a well-organized experiment station. In those countries where schools and stations are well managed, this law has been discovered and followed; and to the patient and well-educated scientist alone is the work of teaching and of experimenting

alike submitted. In this country we are supplied already with the means of following this example. In many of the States an agricultural college, with an ample surrounding farm, and a corps of efficient scientific teachers furnish the opportunity for agricultural investigation in experiment stations, which would naturally follow a wise course and reach reliable conclusions. There is no necessity for trivial work—there is every necessity for substantial work. And when for the development and protection of our forests, for the cultivation of our crops, for the economical use of fertilizers, for improving our breeds of cattle, for investigating animal diseases, for ascertaining the exact facts regarding the existence of contagious diseases, experiment stations are to be established, the colleges may with great propriety and advantage be made the centres of such work, and the associate stations should be guided by them. Investigations and experiments to be of value must be something more than a repetition of well-known facts, or conclusions which have become a part of modern agricultural knowledge and accepted as final. These belong to the text-books of farming, and form a part of an agricultural education. The discovery of new laws and improved methods, the improvement of plants, the preparation and test of fertilizers, is another thing and should be conducted along new and untried paths. For this work the most accurate and correct science should be employed—the science of the schools, the science which opened the book of nature to Davy and Liebig and Agassiz in their search for her great processes and laws.

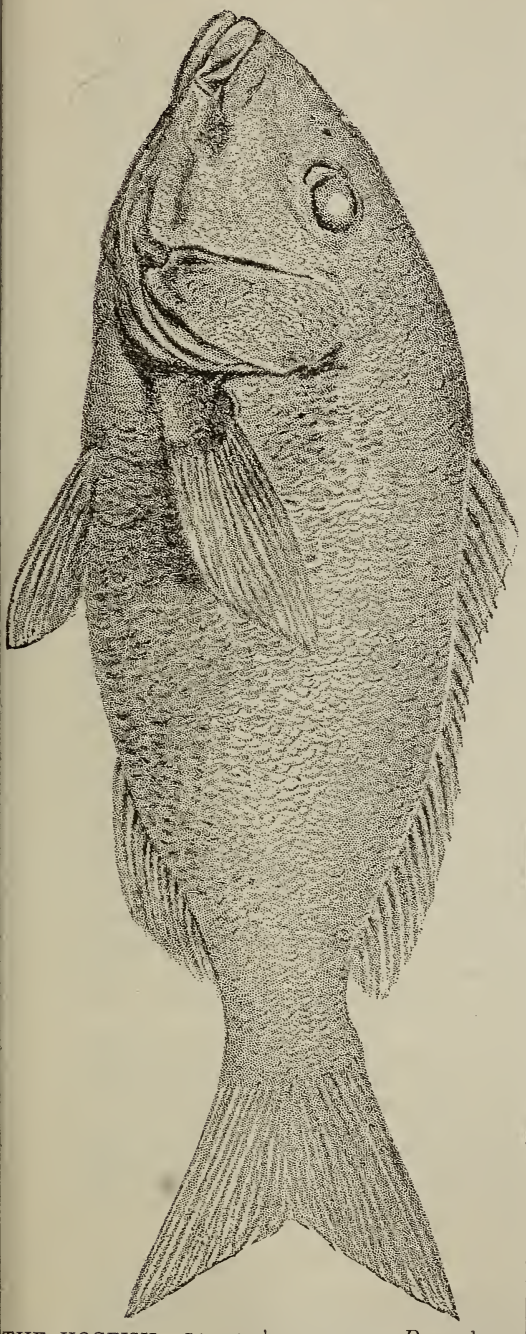
I have called special attention to this subject at this time, because the value of our agricultural colleges is becoming better understood, and their influence is becoming more and more manifest. They are recognized now as among the most useful institutions of learning in this country, and they have called into their service some of the most accomplished, faithful and reliable scientists among us. Aided by experiment stations established under their immediate control, they can bring to the farmer the most valuable information and confirm it to his mind by authority which he would not be inclined to question. It is gratifying to see the interest manifested by many of the States in this work, and there can be no doubt that liberal aid will be granted to every endeavor to elevate the experimental farming and the agricultural education of this country up to the standard already laid down by the most enlightened nations of the old world, the management of whose schools and stations forms a most interesting chapter tn the agricultural literature of our day.

The agriculture of America in its organization and its production now holds a most important position, recognized at home and abroad. Of the service performed by this society, in its development, you have every reason to be proud. Your energy has been untiring, and your success has been most gratifying.

In closing, President Loring alluded in graceful terms to the enterprise and activity of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society as evidenced by the sudden growth of these extensive grounds, from a waste, almost, to their present condition, with ample buildings, in the space of a few months, He viewed it as pointing with pride to the sturdy enterprise, activity and reliance of the New Hampshire farmers, who seem determined in their efforts to lift their calling to the lofty position they so well deserve. He saw, also, in these grounds, that they were determined on securing for themselves a proper and necessary nucleus around which to rally for future efforts."

Hon. Warren Brown, President of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society, spoke briefly as to the difficulty and immense labor which the Society had incurred in putting the rough, unfenced grounds in order for the Exhibition, the many buildings that had been erected, the track laid out and prepared, and of the great assistance of the people of Manchester, by which hearty concord, the great results then before them, had been accomplished since the first of April. He alluded to the crude condition of the grounds which was the consequence of its newness, but promised better things for the future. His remarks met with loud applause from the strangers.

PISCATORY.



THE HOGFISH—SAILOR'S CHOICE—*Pomadasys fulvomaculatus.*

We are indebted to Mr. W. C. Harris, editor of *The Angler* for the foregoing cut, and the well-written article of Col. F. G. Skinner, descriptive of the merits of this famous pan-fish. We omit the scientific portion of the article, and insert all that our readers desire to know about this delectable fish. The author, Col. Skinner, is too well-known to our readers as an accomplished, ready and graceful writer, for us to say anything of his style, which always speaks for itself, but we take occasion to say that the *Angler*, published at 252 Broadway, N. Y,. is the only paper in this country solely devoted to the science of pisciculture and the delights attendant upon old Isaac Walton's sport. It should be patronized by every lover of fish and fishing. We concur with Col. Skinner in all he says of the Hog-fish, but think, one to realize all its gustatory excellencies, should enjoy it fresh from its home, at Norfolk, as he and we have done in days of yore.

"This fish is nothing extraordinary on the hook ; he is unsuspicious, is taken with the simplest tackle, and is a greedy, free biter, On the table he has few peers.

The epicures of Mobile boast of their pompano, the gourmets of the Maryland Club are proud of their bay mackerel, but the fortunate dweller in that land of Goshen washed by the teeming waters of Hampton Roads, fairly worships the hogfish. Though a polytheist in matters gastronomical, admitting even the muskrat to our Olympus, we are inclined to join with our friends in Norfolk in the worship of the hogfish.

A freshly run salmon, crimped and boiled and reverently served wrapped in snow white damask, is a lordly dish worthy of a Lucullus when dining in his hall of Apollo, but like the quail on toast he cannot be eaten every day; he is too luscious and soon cloys. The bay mackerel, as beautiful on the table as when cleaving the flashing waters, has a divine flavor of his own unrivaled among fishes. No wonder the Baltimorean holds him to be an edible jewel—the very Koor-i-noor of the finny tribes—but alas! he soon palls upon the appetite. The pompano is justly prized

as beyond all compare the best of the flavorless fishes of the semi-tropical seas.

We have feasted with a grateful heart and an appreciative palate upon all these fishes, but when called upon to decide upon their respective gastronomical merits we unhesitatingly award the palm to the hogfish of Hampton Roads. *Properly* fried—we emphasize the term properly, because of all the processes of the culinary art frying is the least understood and the most abused—the hogfish becomes the undisputed monarch of all the pan-fish; when in high condition he needs not the adventitious aid of oil, or butter, or lard, in the cooking; under the action of the fire the delicate fat in which he is wrapped as in a mantle, melts, and he floats in a delectable gravy of his own aromatic juices until he becomes of that golden brown so pleasing to the educated gourmet, and then like the appetizing Potomac herring cured by our friend Col. Morton Marye, of Alexandria, Va., he may be eaten with gusto three hundred and sixty-five times in a year.

We are told that one of those magnificent millionaire Senators of Imperial Rome, hearing of the gastronomic merits of the red mullet of Egypt, was seized with a longing to eat one, so irresistible that he fitted out a trireme at enormous expense, made the voyage to Egypt, gratified his longing and then returned to Italy without putting a foot on the shores of that land of wonders.

In all the annals of gastrology we find no such compliment as this paid by the Roman Senator to the mullet, and yet he is inferior to our hogfish. We have captured and eaten the red mullet in his native waters; we had him nicely broiled and beautifully fried in the most delicate Lucca oil, but candor compels us to say that he compares with our hogfish as does a puddle duck with a royal canvas-back.

We have before us as we write a jar of alcohol in which floats a superb specimen of our favorite fish, kindly sent us by Mr. James McMenamin, the head of the well known firm of McMenamin & Co., packers of canned goods at Hampton, Va. The sight of this fish revived the fast fleeting memories of our joyous youth, and more particularly of a whole week of successful sport with hogfish.

It was in the long, long ago, when Andrew Jackson was President; the old hero who had never turned his back to a foe, had fled away from politicians or office-seekers and taken refuge on that lonely pile of barren rocks in Hampton Roads called the Rip Raps, and there he dwelt for a few weeks with his household in such seclusion that no one dared venture to the Rip Raps without a written invitation and a pass from Mr. Donelson, the Private Secretary. One day, to his great joy, such an invitation and pass came to the writer through the President's adopted son, young Andrew Jackson, who found the place too lonely without a boy companion of his own age. We were delighted, for of all the places in the Roads the Rip Raps at that day was the very best for hogfish.

Comfortably seated on the rocks we angled for them with the simplest tackle possible, precisely as for perch with shrimp or crab bait, and at the right stage of the tide we yanked them out as fast as we could throw in. We have often thought since that the happiest hours of the old General's political life must have been those of this seclusion within the sanctuary of the Rip Raps, where each morning, after an early breakfast and under the shelter of a rude awning of rough unplaned boards, he reclined in a large armchair—always in his stocking feet without shoes or slippers—and listened to Mrs. Blair read the daily papers and watched the boys, young Andrew and the writer, yank out the hogfish. In those days any negro on the Lower Chesapeake might feast at will upon hogfish, they were so abundant and cheap; but now, we are told, alas! the supply falls short of the demand, and the price in the market and the restaurant rivals that of the salmon and the bay mackerel.

[We confess to no little pride in presenting our readers with the capital portraiture which illustrates Col. Skinner's paper on the hogfish. The cut is not only an admirable specimen of art, but it is also unique of its kind, being the only portrait ever published of one of our most delicious food fishes.—ED. OF ANGLER.]

Dogs vs. Sheep.

Hon. E. L. Gardenhire, writes the McMinnville *Standard* that statistics show Tennessee has 300,000 worthless dogs. What each dog eats would make 100 pounds of bacon, which in the aggregate is 30,000,000 pounds of bacon. This would abundantly furnish meat for 100,000 able-bodied laborers for the entire year. At ten cents a pound the bacon is worth $3,000,000, which is equal to 187,500 pounds of silver dollars. This would make 94 two-horse loads, and make a wagon train more than half a mile long.

These worthless whelps prevent us from raising 2,000,000 of sheep, the mutton and wool of which are worth $5,000,000. Thus our blessed dogs cost us really $9,000,000, counting sheep killed, while we spend not more than $3,000,000 to educate our children. Thus it is three dollars for dogs and one dollar for children! Keep it before the people: Three million for dogs and one for children! Throw up your hats and shout when you think of it! It is not the beautiful voice of the turtle that is heard in the land; it is the triumphant howl of the whelp imperiously demanding more and better mutton.

State and Independent Fairs, 1883.

STATE.

Maryland, Baltimore.....Oct. 29 Nov. 2
Virginia, Richmond..... Oct 31, Nov 2
North Carolina, Raleigh.....Oct 15, 20
South Carolina, Columbia.....Nov 13 16
Mississippi, Meriden .....Oct 29 Nov 3
Arkansas, Little Rock .....Oct 16, 20
Texas, Austin .....Oct 16, 10

INDEPENDENT AND DISTRICT

American Institute, New York....Oct 3, Dec 1
Louisville Exposition, Louisville, Ky
.....Aug 1, Nov 10
Pittsburgh Exposition, Pittsburgh, Pa
.....Sept 6, Oct. 13
District Fair Ass'n, Carbondale, Ill....Oct 8, 12
North-Eastern, Indiana, Waterloo, Ind..Oct 1, 5
Fat Cattle Show, Chicago, Ill.....Nov 14, 22
Dominion Exposition, St Johns, N. B..Oct 2, 7

MARYLAND COUNTY FAIRS.

Cecil, Elkton.....Oct 2, 5
Frederick, Fredertck .....Oct. 9, 12
Harford, Bel Air. .....Oct. 9, 12
Montgomery, Rockville.....Oct. 9, 12
Washington, Hagerstown..... .. Oct. 16, 19

VIRGINIA COUNTY FAIRS.

Lynchburg, Lynchburg.....Oct. 24, 26
S. West Va., Wytheville.....Oct 3, 5

Public Roads.

At the September meeting of the Deer Creek Farmer's Club of Harford Co., Md., the subject for discussion was "Public Roads." Among other things said by the different speakers, Judge James D. Waters said that "public roads are public property and their improvement is of advantage to everybody. No matter how attractive and desirable a region may be, unless the roads are good, property will not command as high a price as it is worth. The roads of Harford are being greatly improved, but it is possible to make them better still. He was not in favor of changing the present system. It is an admirable thing that the roads seem to be taken out of politics. He advocated the use of the patent road-scraper, propelled by horses, as better and cheaper than the shovel and mattock. Roads cannot be properly mended with the ordinary dump-scraper. There is a great deal of fault-finding about road-mending, but if each one, instead of grumbling, would do something to make the roads in his section better, they would be greatly improved."

[Those remarks are judicious and are applicable to every county in the State. We wish we could see every county in the State following such useful hints, and thus increasing fifty per cent. the value of real estate.—EDS. MD. FAR.]

THE DAIRY.

Dairy Cows.

By Dr. Robert Ward ,F. R. C, V. S., State Veterinarian, of Maryland.

In ruminants, the period of gestation is somewhat capricious; and, when we consider the varied conditions to which our domesticated animals are subjected, it is not to be wondered at Particularly is this the case with our dairy cows. Bovines, intended beyond doubt as food for man, are furnished with a most complicated and mysterious digestive apparatus, so that the assimilation of the *ingesta* be complete. This tends to the development of flesh at an earlier period than those animals furnished with a more simple digestive ap-

paratus. Now in domestication the dairy cow has this flesh-forming condition made secondary to milk-forming properties, and hence stock-owners supply their cows with those materials as food which prove in assimilation to yield milk, rather than flesh. It is to this fact that I wish to direct the attention of dairymen.

Dairy cows in full profit—that is, in reference to milk when they have calved, may with every advantage be supplied with the provender which yields the elements so essential to a well furnished udder; but as the period of uterine gestation advances again, it is important that provender yielding both flesh and bone forming elements be substituted. It must, however, be understood I do not mean *fat*, but sound flesh; for during the fœtal development these elements are needed, are of the highest importance. They must be supplied to repair the loss to the parent, and fortify her system against those evils, or many of them, attending parturition. Hence, we have here a prophylactic or preventative against evil consequences. This cannot be too forcibly impressed on the minds of dairymen—that variations in the periods of calving, ill development of the off spring, inversion of the uterus, fevers, &c., of parturition, are mainly due to this important omission. It is in those animals in which this fortified condition does not exist that we find serious after-consequences follow.

Comforting and composing drinks, gruel and succulent diet, are unnecessary when the dietary arrangements are as they ought to be. When the frame becomes debilitated the treatment of a parent having an off-spring to support becomes a serious loss, if not a failure. It is a well-known fact among graziers and dealers that after conception the cow fattens, and as the uterus becomes gravid, this condition ceases and the animal falls away. Here begins the care in selection of food. Much may be said on this subject, for it is too frequently said that "anything will do for cows." A similar reply was made to a remark I made when visiting a large dairy farm. The hay was cut from a certain rick which was musty, mouldy, and ill-gotten. The answer was, "Oh! we do not give this to the horses; it all goes to the cows." I remonstrated, and explained how injurious it would in all likelihood prove if partaken of ravenously by some in-calving cow; and my prediction proved only too true. The same observations apply to roots and other supposed edibles, for when decayed or frosted, these should on no account be placed before breeding cows. Again, evil results frequently follow drinking cold water, although it may not be recognized as the *cause*; therefore this matter should receive more attention than it generally does.

The value of exercise cannot be overestimated, not only its effects, but for the atmospherical influence, and oxygenation of the blood. Pasture-feeding, therefore, tends to health in pregnant cows. Care, however, should be exercised in pasturing cows in meadows having open drains, made *blind* by the growing grass, for frequently serious mishaps occur. Although animals from natural instinct sometimes avoid them when roaming at large, they will when feeding, from want of attention, often stumble into them. I draw attention to this, from the fact that some years ago several cows on a farm slipped calf; indeed, it became serious. Nothing could be discovered in the provender or feeding, the cows appeared healthy; no cause could be discovered, till, on a future visit, it was remarked that the cows had been grazing in a new meadow some time previous, To it I went. The herbage proved right, but the surface drains proved wrong. Evidence clearly showed that many of the cows had slipped up through these drains. The drains were piped afterwards, and no further trouble ensued.

That herbage covered with early dew and frost is productive of tympany and indigestion is too well known to require other than passing notice, and to observe that the calf suffers as well as the parent, and that abortion not unfrequently results.

The sanitary condition of the yard and byres on most farms is unfortunately greatly neglected. Accumulations of manure beyond the rotten stage are frequently observed in many yards; the byres without drains or ventilation. Warmth and pure air are essential to health, and where these important desiderata are entirely omitted, abortion, fever, &c., result.

These observations apply generally to rural dairies. Those in towns are better looked after; yet there is much room for improvement, particularly in their construction. It is not that the space is insuf-

ficient, but badly made use of, and ventilation most imperfectly arranged. To allow slaughtering to be carried on anywhere in the vicinity of the byres is wrong in principle, for there is a peculiar *miasma* given off from slaughtered bodies, which acts upon the sensitive organism of pregnant cows, and is a frequent cause of abortion. The same observations apply with greater force to the performance of post-mortem examinations. With the exercise of care and forethought much loss through slipping calf may be averted. It is because I have witnessed the evil effects of unwholesome provender, water, air, and exposure which might have been prevented, that I anxiously caution my readers not to follow the same penny-wise and pound-foolish plan.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Dairy.

PREPARING BUTTER FOR MARKET.

In the cities butter finds its way to the consumers by two different ways: by delivery by the farmer to his customers, or consignment to regular consumers; and by purchase in the open market. By the first plan the consumer pays fancy prices for supposed fancy butter, the idea being that the farmer with his dozen cows is just supplying "our family," so they pay about 50 per cent. higher for such an article than the same quantity of butter can be purchased from some reliable dealer. In truth this farmer is supplying from twenty to fifty other families the same way, and buys the greater quantity of his butter at some creamery, and then fixes it up for his customers, packing it into little fancy pails, crocks, or "prints" of one half pounds each. There is just a trace of "chenanigan" in the business. The facts are that dividing butter up into little pats, and exposing yet more surface to the action of the air, is to impair the quality, which would not be the case if the butter, as soon as worked over, was pressed into crocks, and brine, or salt sealed, so as to be thoroughly excluded from the air. To get butter into fancy shape and impress the seal of flowers, monograms upon it is usually brought into greater or less contact with the hands, while the mixing and other extra manipulations have a tendency to break down the texture, making the butter harder to keep, unless it is quickly consumed, for "print" butter like an egg, needs to be eaten fresh.

It is from this very fact why butter thus prepared sooner looses its flavor than the real creamery made butter, especially that made in the higher class of our factories. It is true that the consumer pays for all these extras, but it is an effect after all to please the eye, and at the expense of the real value of the butter. The true value of butter consists of flavor, texture and keeping qualities, and the over-work to produce these things, is at the expense of at least two of the qualities. In every way it is better for butter to be sent to market in small maple pails or gallon crocks well-glazed. These packages are supposed to contain a week's supply for a family, and their cost does not add as much to the expense of each pound of butter, as is the case, the article is first made into pats and then a package with separate compartments of some kind provided to insure the safe transportion of the prints. To mar or injure them is to bring the butter down to average market price. If the flavor texture and the like was so far above the best brands of creamery butter, a litte disfigurement would not injure the sale of the butter which shows that the fancy price is a ficticious quantity, represented by the amount of "loose change" the consumer may have.

It is doubtful if any covering for a ball of butter has ever been invented that is perfect. The muslin cloths, wooden slips, this, that, and the other, have defects and often are unfit in their character to touch or come in contact with a roll of butter. As a rule the best results will come from avoidance of all such. In some respects we are making rapid advances in the production of dairy goods, but in the matter of butter packages it is doubtful if much advance has been made, or if the small wooden package, or well-glazed crock has been improved upon for supplying customers with small lots of butter. As to flavor and quality being improved by the dividing of a lot of butter into "pats," "prints," "stamped," "ragged out," or "naked rolls," it is out of the question, for it is in this handling and sub-division that makes it so much more different to retain flavor, not

only in transporting and in the cold storage of the commission merchant, but even when brought out of the honest dairyman's wagon, it is surrounded by influences that impair it, when if packed solid in a crock, it would last without deterioration until consumed.

The moral of this article, is that name, and adornment will not give especial flavor and texture to butter. J. G.

Swiss Cows.

Swiss cows are not very plentiful in America, and yet they are excellent dairy animals. Switzerland excels in the dairy, and the Swiss cows have undergone a long and persistent training for their business. The methods of the dairy in that country of mountains and valleys, of pure water, pure air, and sweet herbage, with the periodical change from the valley yards in the winter to the mountain pastures in the summer, and also with the close personal contact between the cattle and their keepers, all together tend to produce an excellent cow for its purpose and one that is docile and very easily managed. The prevalence of local habits and customs among the swiss people has tended to make the breeding of their cattle close, and to mark the distinction between the races very conspicuously. A certain local pride and jealousy too have helped to bring about as much improvement in the cattle as could well be attained; and thus we find that the best races of the Swiss are generally comformable to the fixed types of each one, each race or breed having marked peculiarities. The best of these cows are kept in the Canton of Schwyz, where the farmers are generally wealthy, and take much pride in the improvement and beauty of their stock. The Swiss cow is large bodied, but fine boned, of the style of a Shorthorn; the horns are light, short, clear, and tipped with black; the color is chestnut brown mixed with white; the nose, tongue, hoofs, and switch are black; a mealy colored band surrounds the black nose; the udder and teats are large and well-formed, and while they differ to a great extent from our common notions about the right form which a cow should have, yet they are excellent and profitable cows, yielding 20 to 25 quarts of milk daily, and the milk is rich in butter of an excellent quality. The skin is yellow, soft, elastic, and covered with soft, silky hair; they carry remarkable escutcheons, and are extremely even in appearance, showing careful and good breeding for a considerable length of time.

Several importations have been made of Swiss cows; a few of them are now in quarantine near New York A herd was imported some years ago by Mr. David Aldrich, of Worcester, Mass., of which the progeny has been scattered through New England and into Pennsylvania, and has turned out to be remarkably good cows. If we had a need of more good cows, of which perhaps we have, or if more variety in the breeds were desired, and this is always the case, then the Swiss cows are very excellent animals for the dairy, and would fill the bill.— *The Dairy*

BULLS should work for their keep. They are the better for it in every way; more docile, robust, and better breeders. The statement is made in the *Pittsburgh Stockman* that a bull will do as much work on farm as a horse, and is far more valuable otherwise when so working. We have already made the same remark, but it is repeating. The bull should be trained when a calf, and in a churn power or a cutting machine is the best method of training. As the animal increases in weight, he can be provided with a common one-horse tread power or a home-made circular one. — *The Dairy.*

A LARGE YIELD OF RICH MILK.—A Southern correspondent of the N. Y. *World* who gains from one cow all the milk that is required for a family of eight, and makes 250 pounds of butter per year, besides, gives his method of feeding.

He says: "If you desire to get a large yield of rich milk give your cows every day water, slightly warmed and slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. By this daily practice the cow will give 52 per cent. more milk immediately under the effect of it, and she will become so attached to the diet as to refuse to drink clear water unless very thirsty. The amount of this drink necessary is an ordinary pailful at a time—morning, noon and night."

The Use of Milk.

The *Medical Record* says: "No one who fatigued by over-exertion of body and mind has ever experienced the reviving influence of a tumbler of this beverage, heated as hot as it can be sipped, will willingly forego a resort to it because of its being rendered somewhat less acceptable to the palate. The promptness with which its cordial influence is felt is indeed surprising. Some portion of it seems to be digested and appropriated almost immediately; and many who now fancy they need alcoholic stimulants when exhausted by fatigue will find in this ample draught an equivalent that will be abundantly satisfying and far more enduring it its effects." As a rule, farmers make too little use of milk. Sweet skimmed milk is the very best beverage for them and their children, and if warmed and sipped gradually is, as stated by the *Record*, both nutritions and agreeable. This we know from long daily habit, and skimmed milk we know to be better than whole milk in this respect. To avoid any possible ill effects from overloading the stomach with it, and permitting it to curdle in a mass, it is well to sip it slowly, and also to eat a few morsels of dry bread or a soda biscuit with a glass of it. Taken in this way, instead of any other supper, will very effectually remove an attack of biliousness.— *The Dairy.*

Editorial Notes of a Northern Tour

Boston, Sept., 3, 1883.

In accordance with my former promise, I give to my readers a plain—but I fear in rather disconnected manner—statement of some of my observations while rambling through this section of country.

On the 29th of August, I left Baltimore by rail to visit the various Agricultural, Mechanical and Horticultural Fairs and Expositions in New England, and to examine the silos, cheese factories, creameries, experimental stations, &c.; on arriving at New York, I took passage on the grand new steamer "Pilgrim" for Fall River, and from there to Boston by rail, where I arrived at Hotel "Vendome" in time for breakfast. This hotel is an elegant structure, fronting on Commonwealth Avenue 240 feet and on Dartmouth Street 125 feet. Including the Mansard roof and the basement, the "Vendome" is eight stories in height. The Commonwealth avenue front is of white Tuckahoe marble, and the front on Dartmouth street is of Italian marble. The caps of the windows and doors are elaborately carved; the roof and towers are of wrought iron, covered with slate; the floors are laid upon iron beams and brick arches, and all interior partitions are of strictly incombustible material, and is one of the most comfortable hotels I have ever met with in my travels. While it is often remarked that this is the best hotel in the world, yet it may not be generally known that the proprietor, Col. J. W. Wolcott, is one of our most extensive and enterprising agriculturists. Our readers no doubt have read his productions in the MARYLAND FARMER, and have also heard of his famous "Blue Hill Farm." Having never seen it myself, I gladly accepted an invitation to join his son in a visit the next day to examine the silos, piggeries, creamery, cheese factory, cow stables, methods of reclaiming swamp lands, &c., all of which proved very instructive and interesting to me. The farm contains 370 acres, fronting on the Neponset river, and is located in the midst of many historic scenes.

On reaching the farm I was glad to find the farm-hands engaged in cutting off the corn in the field, hauling it to the silo, cutting it up and filling the silo. This practical operation I had never seen before and was surprised at the rapidity with which the work was performed. A load of 825 pounds, which I saw weighed on a Fairbanks scale, was taken to the silo and the wagon backed up to the platform, the slings that had been placed in the bottom of the wagon before the corn stalks were loaded in the field, were brought up over the load, and a rope winding over a

drum in the silo was then hooked to the sling which reached around the entire load, when by my watch, the load, in 20 seconds of time, was on the platform by the side of the cutting machine. This machine was then started and in three minutes and forty-five seconds this load of 825 pounds was nicely cut at proper lengths and deposited in the silo by a small steam engine which is used for the dairy and other purposes.

There are two silos, 50 feet long, 15 feet wide and 20 feet deep. They are built in a hill-side, adjoining each other with only a division wall between them, with a capacity to hold 400 tons each. These silos are built of stone on three sides and well cemented all round. Being on a hill-side, the bottom of the silos are on a level with the floor of cow-stables which are only a few yards distant, making it very convenient for feeding the ensilage.

The Colonel had 44 acres in corn this season, which would have filled his silos had it not been for a severe drought in this locality that has materially shortened the crop—some of the lots not yielding more than a half crop of fodder for ensilage. Fortunately his loss will not be felt so much, as he filled one of the silos with a rye crop in June. He is now, and has been feeding all summer on rye ensilage. Young Mr. Wolcott told me that none of the 65 head of Ayrshire milch cows had tasted a sprig of hay or blade of grass since last November, they having been fed the whole time on nothing but ensilage, with three pints of corn meal and three of cotton seed daily for each cow, no other feed, but plenty of pure water.

The stock are in splendid condition, and a better herd of Ayrshires I do not know in the whole country. The entire stock of cattle on the farm, including other breeds with the Ayrshires, make up 140 head, all of which are fed entirely on ensilage. The *soiling system* being strictly pursued there is no pasture for stock on this splendid estate.

THE CREAMERY.

We come next to the creamery, which was so ingeniously arranged that my attention was at once absorbed. In addition to the milk from his own stock, the Colonel takes the milk from his neighbors, thus making this both a good sized cheese factory as well as creamery. The milk is brought in two gallon cans, and the cans emptied, as soon as received, into a strainer, passing through it into a vat which holds 2,000 quarts. From a reservoir filled with ice water, there are pipes running through the vat, thus the milk is kept cool by this constant stream of ice water. Every 24 hours the milk is drawn off, and runs directly into the cheese vat placed on the floor below, and then the cream is drawn off and passes into the churn, which is also on the lower floor, where it is churned, worked, salted and daily made ready for market. This butter I saw and tasted, and it was superior in color, taste and textures.

THE PIGGERIES—1,000 PIGS.

The piggeries were a great surprise to me, and like everything else on this place, were in fine condition. These huge pig-pens were several hundred yards from the main buildings, and were well built, boarded and shingled, and kept in perfect order, neat and clean. Each of these hog-houses was 280 feet long and 20 feet wide, with a passage way in the centre 4 feet wide, the whole divided on each side of the passage into pens 6 by 8 feet, each pen well filled. At other places there were also pens, making the whole number of all ages, about 1,000 pigs as the regular stock.—This great number are all high-bred, mostly Yorkshire, with a few Berkshire. But few find their way to the shambles, nearly all are sold to breeders in the several States, there being a large demand for them at good prices. The stock is kept pure by importations of males from Europe.

In the long ride over the farm to see the ditching, clearing and devices to reclaim the swamp lands, I remarked to Mr. Wolcott, if the farm had not more than 370 acres of land, New England acres must be larger than in Maryland, for it seemed to me as we rode up and down hill or meandered through the vales that there were 1,000 acres in the farm.

When Col. Wolcott bought this farm only seven years ago, these large swamps were considered worthless. Under his skillful management, 100 acres have been reclaimed and produce annually from one to three tons of good hay per acre. So much for draining worthless, pestilence-breeding swamps.

It is to be feared there are few men in the country possessing the ability and energy of Col. Wolcott, who combines so many sources of revenue and makes each pay well, as he does with his farm, creameries, stock raising, dairy, and at the same time "running" successfully a first class hotel in such a city as Boston. I cannot take leave of Blue Hill farm without expressing my thanks to the Colonel and his son for their kindness and courtesy.

I staid at the "Vendome" longer than I intended, because I met in Boston so many of my old friends, among which was the venerable and venerated Col. Marshall P. Wilder, who shook my hand with the warmth of youth, and showed his great age—in his 85th year—had in no way impaired his memory or his great intellect, though an accident some two years ago has somewhat affected his physical movements so that he cannot now endure much bodily exertion. Another reason I had for prolonging my visit in Boston was to attend the opening to-day (Sept. 3rd) of the "Foreign Exhibition," held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the treaty by which Great Britain acknowledged the independence of the United States. I have only room to say that it was a grand and magnificent sight.

On Saturday last I attended the meeting of the Massachusetts' Horticultural Society which being managed solely for the public good, and run in favor, or for the profit, of no one man or set of men, has flourished beyond expectation, and is a living monument of the immense value such an association can be made to every citizen of the Commonwealth. Its exhibition was all that might be expected from so grand an old enterprise. Tomorrow I leave to attend the Exhibition of the New England Agricultural Society, at Manchester, New Hampshire. W.

Publications Received.

"Wood's Baltimore Business Directory," is a comprehensive volume of over 600 pages, neatly gotten up, and of infinite use to strangers in want of *anything*—law, medicine, goods of any sort, agents—or to find the locality of friends and acquaintances, etc. It is valuable to every body as a *vade mecum*; it also contains a map of the city.

From Mr. N. R. Pike, Winthrop, Me. The "Maine State Jersey Herd Book," three volumes in one, price $3.00. It contains 1,422 pedigrees, a list of members, constitution and by-laws of the association. Of this book we shall have more to say hereafter.

According to the American Newspaper Catalogue of Edwin Alden & Bro , Cincinnati, Ohio, just published, containing over 800 pages, the total number of Newspapers and Magazines published in the United States and Canadas is 13,186 (showing an increase over last year of 1,028.) Total in the United States 12,177; Canadas 1,007. Published as follows: Dailies, 1,227; Tri-Weeklies, 71; Semi-Weeklies, 151; Weeklies, 9,955; Bi-Weeklies, 23; Semi-Monthlies, 237; Monthlies, 1,324; Bi-Monthlies, 12.

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DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy.

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COL W. W. W. BOWIE, Associate Editor,

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☞COL. D. S. CURTIS. of Washington, D. C., is authorized to act as Correspondent and Agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the MARYLAND FARMER, in the District of Columbia Maryland and Virginia.

☞Our friends can do us a good turn by mentioning the MARYLAND FARMER to their neighbors, and suggesting to them to subscribe for it.

☞*Subscribe at once to the Maryland Farmer and get the cream of agricultural knowledge.*

The Fair Numbers of the Maryland Farmer.

No business man wo desires to increase his trade in any one of the Middle or Southern States, should fail to advertise in our October and November numbers this season. In addition to supplying our regular sucscribers and advertisers with these numbers, we shall publish a large number of extra copies for distribution at the various Agricultural Fairs in the Middle and Southern States.

It is now a settled conviction with most advertisers that a Journal in the form of the MARYLAND FARMER is the best medium for advertising, because a Journal in this form is preserved for years, many of which are regularly bound and kept for future reference.

It is also an ascertained fact by the most intelligent and shrewd advertisers that popular Agricultural Papers of this country are the best mediums for advertising, and this is the reason why there is so large an amount of advertising in the MARYLAND FARMER. Every advertiser who has availed himself of this medium has found it advantageous.

THE premium list and regulations of the Maryland State Agricultural Society for this fall meeting at Pimlico, October 30, 31 and November 1 and 2 next, have been issued. The premiums are liberal, and all the arrangements complete for a successful exhibition, which the farmers of the whole State should endeavor to make it by their personal presence and bringing exhibits for premiums and competition.

A SOUTHERN INDUSTRY ON THE MARCH. —Six thousand car-loads of watermelons have been shipped from north Georgia alone this season. This is what railroads are doing for the people of this Southern country. Thousands of dollars are now realized at little cost of labor, where not one cent was made formerly.

The New England Agricultural Association.

We left Boston so as to reach Manchester, N. H. in time to be present at the opening of the New England Fair on the 4th. September, and to listen to the able and eloquent address of the President, the Hon. Geo. B. Loring, the present efficient Commissionor of the U. S. Agricultural Department. A portion of this instructive address appears in this number of the Maryland Farmer. The grounds have been just prepared and as everything is new, there were some few, slight inconveniences to be put up with, the greatest of which was the dust, attributable to the soil and the long drought which continued. But another year, the grounds will have a layer of clay and be under grass, so this trouble will be corrected. Manchester itself is a manufacturing town, yet be it spoken for this enterprise, the whole people entered heartily into the plans of those gentlemen who had the arrangements in hand, and who deserve great praise for what they accomplished in so short a time. This 20th. Annual Exhibition of the Society proved a great success, indeed it was said to be the most successful ever held by the Association. The weather was charming, bright sunshine with cool breezes—immense crowds and a large, splendid Exhibition. The entries in each Department were very numerous, and each specimen excellent.

The after-noon of the first day was devoted to parades and bicycle racing, there being not less than 50 bicycles on hand and an immense crowd to see their performances.

There were cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, and poultry, representing the various breeds of each, and each class was largely and well represented. It was a grand display of choice breeds of domestic animals. Of course I cannot be expected to particularize each superior specimen in such a crowd of fine stock, but I cannot help noticing a few that attracted my attention as rather novel and will be so I am sure to most of my readers. Among the Swiss cattle, D. G. Roberts of Goffstown, N. H. has his cow "Bessie," 11 years old and her calf, 5 months old, on the grounds. In five and one half years this cow has given 51,000 pounds of milk and made over 5,000 pounds of butter—550 pounds a year.

SHORTHORNS.

J. C. Ray of Manchester has brought up from the State Industrial School the "Duke of Lake View," one of the largest animals on the grounds, his weight being at six years of age, 2,400 pounds.

A pair of working bulls, by C. A. Milliken of Ackworth, of 5,500 pounds weight, drew poplar wood, four cords to a load, eighteen miles, three times a week last winter.

In this connection we may mention Mr. Taft's trained steers, from Uxbridge, Mass. He has four yoke, one of Ayrshires, one of Devons, one of Durhams and one of cross breeds, named respectively 'Ben Butler' and 'Bob Ingersoll,' 'Ned' and 'Joe,' 'Moses' and 'Aaron,' and 'Spot' and 'Star.' These animals are wonderfully intelligent, and their exhibitions always attract crowds of delighted spectators.

The plowing contests were, as always in New England, interesting and instructive. We noticed that Swivel plows were used almost entirely. There were some nice Sulky plows also.

One feature of this Fair should not be overlooked—the Dog Bench Show, which had in it 100 individual dogs, including every useful species of the canine race, from the ladies' pug and poodle to the magnificent New Foundland. The useful collies made a fine appearance.

I hardly need say that the Agricultural products, vegetables and fruits were both abundant and excellent. So too the Dairy was well supplied with nice samples of butter; and also the bread department showed how well the women of New Eng-

land could make and bake. The large "Smith's Hall" was filled with works of Art, paintings, drawings, embroidery, needlework and other house-hold productions, that challenged the admiration of the crowd of spectators. It seems to me that I could fill a large volume if I mentioned all that I saw worthy of record.

This Fair was a great treat to me, really an intellectual, agricultural feast. The mind as well as the eye was gratified. The many speeches from great men, the discussions of questions &c, were well calculated to please and instruct. It is a wise custom of the New England society to hold evening meetings to discuss common-place and every day matters which appertain to the work of the organization. At the meeting of the first evening, the subject for discussion was "The Drought." Col. Dan. Needham, Sec. of the society, in calling the meeting to order, among other excellent things, said alluding to the drought: "He was aware that many farmers had lost from 50 to 60 per cent. of what they anticipated to be the product of their labor, but as a whole the farming population had reason to take courage from the past, as by and by the balance was sure to turn in their favor. Looking back we learn with satisfaction that the improvement in farms and buildings in New Hampshire has been 33 per cent. since 1850. This seems almost fabulous, and yet it is so; and during the same time the improvement in utensils and animals has been from 7 to 10 per cent.; in fact all departments show a gain. As long as we can make this showing, leaving a balance in favor of the farmers, which can be utilized when such a season as the present is upon us, we can surely take courage.

The New England Society takes a pride in its present exhibition. It has proven that farming is a fundamental and honorable calling, and in demonstrating this it has satisfied those who have so bravely gathered about its standard. One of the great problems that we may well consider is the line of policy to pursue towards the thousands of young men who are growing up knowing nothing of the joys of labor, and who are no benefit to themselves or others. What is a college educated young man good for unless he has a practical education and knows how to use his hands and feet, his muscles and brains in a practical way? The great purpose of life is happiness, which can be found in developing manhood and womanhood in a practical way. True and manly government of our boys and girls must be sought for, and they taught that the great things of life do not consist in grasping for money."

An animated discussion then followed upon the subject of debate, in which several able men participated.

Thursday the 6th, as was expected proved the most brilliant day of the Fair. It was "Governor's day". There were 17,000 people on the grounds. At 12.30 President Loring called to order and in a graceful address welcomed the many distinguished guests that were present. He then appropriately introduced each speaker: Gov. Hale of New Hampshire; Gov. Butler of Mass.; Gov. Jarvis of North Carolina; Sec. Chandler, and Mayor Palmer of Boston. These gentlemen made short, apt and eloquent addresses, which were loudly applauded by the multitude of listeners.

I shall long remember this occasion, as one by which I was impressed with the hope that all other State Societies would pattern after the proceedings of the New England Society. Here were assembled all the leading farmers of New England, for the purpose of receiving and imparting instruction upon all subjects germane to agricultural pursuits. Among the many old friends I encountered, were Mr. Cheever of the New England Farmer, and Mr. George Noyes of Mass. Ploughman, whom I often met during my investigating tour of the grounds.

I may have occasion again to refer to this memorable Fair, having exceeded at present my limits.

W.

Baltimore County Fair.

TIMONIUM, Baltimore County, (Md.) Fair, this year must have been a great success financially. Thousands daily attended and the weather was propitious. We were not surprised at the crowds of ladies and children when we saw the many inducements that the officials of the society had provided for the public attendance and for public amusement. Side-shows were in quantity, and the Indians, greasy poles, horse racing, trials of trotting nags, wheelbarrow races, man, and horse steeple chase races, &c. The exhibition grounds have been greatly improved of late, and the displays of machinery was both large and fine.

Of the show of stock we cannot speak favorably, except, that what was shown did credit to the various exhibiters in cattle, horses, hogs, sheep and poultry. Dr. Patterson's Freisian bull was much admired for size and docility. This grand breed his is just now attracting much of public attention. This department was a very decided failure if we consider that Timonium is in the centre of one of the finest stock regions in our State, and in Jersey cattle can equal any portion or extent of territory in the world.

The household department reflected the greatest credit upon the ladies of the county, and showed that in bread, butter, stichery and all matters of household economy and adornment, the women of Baltimore county, assisted by Harford, can proudly hold up their heads in any company of their sisters of any and all the counties of the State combined. The Agricultural and Horticultural Hall had a limited show of fine garden, farm and horticultural productions. We hope the florists at the State Fair will make a larger and better show of plants and flowers.

The prettiest and most instructive scene presented on the ground was the "Apiary," the large tent of Mr. Lake, where the intelligent owner described the habits and virtues of these industrious little beings, and proved by practical demonstration how gentle and harmless they were,and how disposed they were to contribute, the sweets of flowers and fruits condensed, to the delectation and comfort of human life so long as they met with kindness, confidence and protection. Yet they are brave and true to their rights; they soon resent either insult or injury, and often teach sluggish men their duties when oppressed or wantonly insulted. We were charmed with this exhibition of the work, working of the bees, their gentleness, industry, intelligence and skill; also with the display of appliances that thought and ingenuity had of late furnished toward increased profits in bee-keeping. By ingenious contrivances bees are now saved half the labor of old, in having the honey cells prepared for them. They now can dispense with the toil of building receptacles for their rich stores. They put their treasures in any form wanted. Mr. Lake showed how boxes in shape of a heart, can be filled with snow-white honey; it was certainly very attractive and suggestive of love's early dream at breakfast or tea during "honey-moon season."

We do not wish to be fault-finders, but cannot refrain, for the future benefit of this association, from saying that there was shown by the officers of this society less courtesy, attention and hospitality to strangers than at any fair we have ever attended, in either the North, West or South. *Verb. sat.*, gentlemen, in future, a little more genuine Maryland politeness to strangers and you will make your Society as popular as her sisters of Harford, Washington, and all other fairs both in Maryland and other States.

The Tri-State Pic-nic.

Was held at Williams' Grove, Pa., during the third week of August. The weather was fine and attendance of the farmers of Pennsylvania and adjoining States very large, numbering one day over 30,000 people. It is a real Grangers' Jubilee, with free admittance to their beautiful grove enclosed only by water all around except the railroad on one side. The shade is dense from tall sugar maple, hickory and other forest trees, with winding avenues for travel, and small clearings for tents and the immense display of machinery. But even these are protected from the rays of the sun by the over-hanging branches of the beautiful forest trees. What we wish to say of the country through which we passed, and of Harrisburgh and particulars of this delightful rural pic-nic of the tri-State grangers, we must defer to another month. Enough for us to say, in the present crowded state of our columns, is that this was the largest and best "pic-nic" ever held, and reflected the highest credit upon the entire management; especially deserving of praise were the indefatigable efforts of energetic brother Thomas who is the chief manager, to whom, and to the graceful courtesy and attentions of his son, we were indebted for much of our enjoyment, and gladly return our grateful acknowledgments. Their unwearied hospitality we heard praised by hundreds of stranger-guests who received similar attentions and generous welcome. More anon.

GROWTH OF A LARGE INDUSTRY.—Such has been the growth of the business of Wm Knabe & Co., piano manufacturers, that even their immense factories have not been large enough for them. To accommodate this increasing business they have leased a large and convenient building just opposite their factories. The building was formerly used as a tobacco factory, and its size suits well for the purposes to which it will now be put. The building is on the southwest corner of Eutaw and West streets, fronting 155 feet on West street and 45 feet deep, with an engine house 40 by 45 feet It is four stories in height, with a basement. By this extensive addition the firm will be able to increase its production to 70 pianos a week.—*Baltimore American.*

Home Again.

After an absence of a month, the editor and proprietor has returned to his many friends and to his duties, refreshed in body and a note book full of useful facts and information gleaned during his delightful and instructive trip amongst northern farmers and manufacturers, florists and others.

In this number appear two of his letters to be followed by what he heard and saw in the land of his early days.

The present number of the MARYLAND FARMER is already so crowded, that many valuable communications have to be laid over to await their turn.

Forensic Veterinary Medicine.

At request of Mr. Seth, Secretary to the Maryland Imported Live Stock Association, Dr. Ward has promised to read a paper on the above important and interesting subject, at the November meeting of the association, to be held at the Carrolton Hotel. We expect to see a "full house" for this paper must prove attractive. Forensic Medicine is that branch of study and thought bearing on the causes of death and disease, termed Medical Jurisprudence also by many of the Faculty.

In this instance it will be brought down to grasp the present crisis on the infectious diseases of animals, and legislative measures for their suppression by legal medicine.

A NEW TOMATO.—Mr. S. N. Hyde, of Long Green, Baltimore county, has developed from the Trophy tomato, one that he calls the Maryland Wonder, of which single specimens would fill a breakfast plate. They are smooth, flat and firm, and Mr. Hyde is so certain that they can not be equalled, that he offers to give a hundred dollars to the poor of Baltimore for a showing by any one in the United States of as good tomatoes as this new variety.

The Maryland Jockey Club.

This popular club will hold its Autumn races on its beautiful Pimlico grounds, the third week in October, 23, 24, 25 and 26th. There will be from four to six races each day. It has never failed to have fine racing and large crowds of fashionable as well as substantial people in attendance. The coming meeting will however be the most brilliant one it has ever had, if there be anything in a quick track in the best condition, a great number of fine races, and several stables comprised of nearly all the famous cracks in America, like Eole, Carter, Boot Jack, Miss Woodford, Crickmore, Empress, Monitor, Iroquois, old Parole and many more of like fame. Every man and woman fond of this noble sport should embrace this opportunity of seeing the contests between these celebrated horses, under the best circumstances.

The Art and Science of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

We are pleased to inform our readers that Dr. Ward is arranging to deliver a series of private lectures on the above interesting and valuable study, during the winter months, at the large veterinary consulting room, situate in N. Charles street, over the rooms of the Md. Jockey Club.

The opening address will we believe be delivered on Monday, the 8th of October, and the Lectures will commence soon after that date.

Gentlemen wishing to attend the opening, will be furnished with a ticket on application to Dr. W. by letter, as the space is limited. Early application should be made.

We are enabled to state that these lectures are intended to amateurs, who may own valuable stock, and reside at some point distance from veterinary aid, also as a preliminary course for those who may determine to embrace the profession, for whom a more extended course will be formulated.

In drawing attention to the following from the Baltimore press of September 17th, we can but remark how potent the defects are in our laws on cattle diseases and their dissemination.

"Dr. Robert Ward, state veterinary surgeon, states that if there exists any pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle, he knows nothing of it, and has no means at his disposal to obtain direct information of it. Dr. Ward has written the following letter to Dr. Bridge, of Philadelphia, relating to the charge that the disease was imported into some of the counties of Pennsylvania by an infected herd shipped from this city:

Baltimore, September 17th, 1883.

Dr. Bridge, Official Physician State Board of Agriculture, Philadelphia, Pa.:

Dear Sir: My attention has been directed to an article which appeared in *The American* to-day stating that the cattle of several counties of your state had been affected with pleuro-pneumonia, contracted from a herd shipped from this city. Will you kindly favor me with the particulars concerning the herd you refer to, and the date of departute from Baltimore? Very truly yours,

Robt. Ward."

Nothing short of the most stringent repressive measures, as adopted in European countries, will stamp out these insiduous diseases. Would the owners of infected herds realize the dangerous and cruel nature of the act in disposing of diseased stock, keeping everything secret and hid, and their duty to their neighbors and the state. By giving information and assistance, things might work differently and such stringent measures would not be needed. As experience shows too clearly the thing *must be*.

A New and Superb Cantaloupe.

Mr. Wm. B. Chairs, of Anne Arundel, presented that popular restaurant,—the Green House—with a cantaloupe grown by his young friend and neighbor, Mr. Hancock, this season with great success. It is called the "Banana Cantaloupe," deriving its name from the general similitude to that tropical fruit. Mr. Wagner, of the Green House, gave it to us for testing. We found it rich and aromatic in meat and perfume. Its aroma was delightful; flesh firm, dark orange and eatable close to the rind or bright green ring that shows just before the outer skin. It was just two feet long and seven inches diameter, tapering to both ends like the banana. Resembles a cross between a gourd and a cantaloupe. Delicious to the taste,and as a lady said 'convenient to cut, and arrange with picturesque taste on a platter." One chief characteristic is that it keeps like a watermelon after being ripe for a week or ten days. It is a new thing in our markets and only wants to be known to be at the head of all cantaloupes. Mr. Hancock has a bonanza and should treasure it, as he lives in the great fruit and vegetable region of Anne Arundel close to Baltimore city. We candidly say we never eat a better cantaloupe than this, although we profess to know what a prime nutmeg is when well grown on the light soils of Anne Arundel. It may be proper to state that Mr. C. got the seed last year from Delaware, and gave it to Mr. Hancock. It is, therefore, no freak of nature, but a well-defined species, all coming true to the seed, Mr. H. having this year raised hundreds from the same seeds, and all proving fine and true to characteristics, but varying more or less in length. None are short, but some of course longer than others. After awhile we hope to see this variety a standard in our markets, as it is a valuable acquisition to the cantaloupe tribe—a fruit we delight in as do many others.

WE desire to call the attention of our readers to the following important movement of the energetic head of the U. S. Agricultural Department:

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C., Sep. 21, 1883.

A convention of representatives of all classes interested in the Animal Industries of the United States will be held in Chicago, Thursday and Friday, November 15th and 16th, 1883, for conference concerning

CONTAGEOUS DISEASES AMONG OUR DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

In addition to addresses and reports, the following topics are proposed for discussion:

1. The extent to which contageous diseases exist among domestic animals in this country. 2. The modes by which they are introduced or disseminated. 3. Methods by which they may be eradicated, or infected districts be isolated. 4. The efficiency of existing legislation relative to such diseases.

It is desired that this convention may be national and thoroughly representative in its character. The time and place have been selected for the convenience of the large number of those directly interested in the questions to be discussed, who are expected to be in attendance at the Annual Fat Stock Show, under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, and meetings of a number of important live stock associations to be held during the continuance of this show.

Agricultural, live stock, and dairy associations are invited to send representatives, and all persons interested in breeding, rearing, transporting, importing or exporting any class of farm animals will be welcomed to the convention.

GEO. B. LORING,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

WE have received a beautiful sample of "Martin Amber Wheat," from J. A. Everitt & Co. Seedsmen, Watsontown, Penna. This sample is a fine one of this rare and remarkably superior wheat.

HORTICULTURAL.

WINESAP.

We are indebted to Messrs. Franklin Davis & Co. for the above Cut of an Apple we have grown and appreciate, as suitable for Maryland culture. These gentlemen do not speak if it too highly when they say:

"WINESAP.—We can scarcely find words sufficiently strong to express the high opinion we have of this fruit, possessing, as it does, a combination of so many excellent qualities. For cider, it has but few equals; for the table, it stands amongst best; for keeping, it is justly esteemed; and for bearing, it scarcely has a rival. Considering all this, we most earnestly recommend it to the consideration of orchardists. Fruit medium size, rather oblong; skin smooth, of a fine dark red, with a few streaks, and a little yellow ground appearing on the shady side; flesh yellow, firm, crisp, with a rich, high flavor. December to April."

For the Maryland Farmer.

Peaches and Peach Trees.

BY D. Z. EVANS, JR.

Those who have never grown peaches largely, for market purposes, can scarcely realize the fascination there is about the business, and to what extent it has been carried beyond the reasonable means of the planters. It is safe to say that those who have, in the Peninsula, put their all in peach culture have reaped more losses than gains, and hundreds of farmers we know of, who once had fine farms and might have had them to-day, have lost all by turning their farms into vast peach orchards. Very little was realized from the farms for the first four or five years after planting, as scarcely any crops could be raised from the same land, and it took that long to secure a first crop of fruit from the trees. In anticipation of this crop, and also to, frequently, pay for the trees and to meet current expenses, money was raised by mortgage, too often at a ruinous rate of interest on the farm. This led to extravagance, and, when a peach crop failed, —and nothing is more uncertain, until gathered and sold, than a crop of peaches —more money had to be gotten, at almost any sacrifice, to weather through another year, until next year's crop, and so on until the strain could not be borne any longer, and the place was sold under foreclosure. Having lived, some twelve or thirteen years, in the "Peach Belt," we know only too well, how peach growing has let steady, well-to-do farmers so far lose their heads as to place all their trust, reliance and cash into peach trees, with failure, almost invariably as the inevitable result. It is, however, only the re iteration of the same old, sad story, of putting all into any one crop. While one may come out ahead, ninety and nine are sure to be the losers. Others experiences and losses do not however, seem to deter novices from trying their hands at this form of speculation, and only when it is too late do they see, and forcibly, too, their great mistake. It *always* takes more capital to carry, to manage, specialities of all kinds than to do a general business, and in agriculture it is even more pronounced, for when that one crop fails, there are no others which can be depended upon to make up the deficiency, and to meet current expenses for another twelve months until a second crop is due. A very heavy crop of fruit is almost as bad as none, for the consequent glut in the markets put prices below the paying point, and it is, now, only when there is what is popularly termed a "half crop" that the growers realize large returns.—We shall always advocate a diversity of products, in preference to having a sole dependence upon any one crop, for not only will the average receipts and profits be greater, but there will not be that strain on the minds of the farmers as when the cut is made on one single turn of luck.

LOCALITY AND SITE.

For a number of years it has been thought that there were but few localities where peaches could be successfully grown, and on our "Peninsula" seemed to be the most favorable. Peaches can, however, be grown with success and profit in other places, tho' the area is not so entensive as that on which pears or apples will do well. It is a strange thing, but never the less true, that peaches can be grown successfully for a number of years in certain localities, and then they cease to do well; and for a number of years it is useless to attempt their cultivation. After a lapse of ten or fifteen years, they can again be planted, and will grow and pay well. Whether this is due to the peach trees exhausting certain desirable constituents of the soil, requiring a number of years to restore these constituents or elements, we cannot positively say, only we know the results without knowing the cause or causes producing them.

The presence of large bodies of water has much to do in insuring general fruitfulness, for it tempers the climate, prevents the trees from pushing out their shoots to soon in the spring, when they would be endangered by late frosts, and does much towards counteracting the otherwise dangerous effects of heavy, unexpected frosts. This is one of the principal reasons why the lands bordering on the Chesapeake Bay and its numerous armtributaries are such good peach lands, and this effect is noticible a considerable distance inland from these large bodies of water. Some of the Lake Shore regions have also, and no doubt for a similar reason, became noted for producing regular, heavy crops of fine peaches.

Where it can be avoided, we would not advise using a southern site or exposure for a peach orchard, as such and exposure is a warm one, forcing the buds fast and early. If there be no late, heavy frosts—and they too often occur when least expected—it is all well enough, but as sure as they come, the future crop of fruit is either badly injured or else totally destroyed, in embryo. It is quite an expensive matter to plant out a large orchard and it is a very injudicious thing, indeed, not to guard against all the possible setbacks which can occur. Every good bearing peach tree in a large orchard, is worth at the lowest valuation, from five to ten dollars, according to age &c., while a poor one is worth less than nothing, even tho' it may have cost equally as much in the first place. An eastern or south eastern exposure we consider desirable, a western or northern one being too much exposed to the heavy winds which come from those quarters. A gentle slope to the ground, so the piece will have plenty of natural drainage without being liable to wash badly, is desirable, but where natural drainage cannot be had, by all means resort to artificial drainage, as fruit trees, and especially so the pear and peach, will not thrive in wet or damp soils.

SOILS BEST ADAPTED

to the profitable growth of the peach are those which can be denominated as loamy or sandy loam, with not too stiff a clay subsoil. We have seen some good trees grown on very sandy land, but on land of that very loose texture the trees are seldom ong lived, and do not produce as heavy crops, as a rule, as those on loamy soils. It is useless to attempt to grow the peach on clayey or heavy soils, for, while a good growth of wood and foliage *may* result, the trees will seldom bear good crops, and when they do the fruit is of an inferior quality and size. Being a native of a warm climate and soil, and of a loose, mellow soil, these conditions must be observed to secure success.

Peach trees should never be planted twice in the same piece of ground, at least not without having a number of years intervening, for neglecting to observe this will lead to disappointment, we having seen it tried repeatedly, and invariably with the same undesirable and disastrous results. The intervening time, too, should be used in keeping the piece under thorough cultivation. Old peach growers, those long in business know the great advantage in planting in virgin soils, in soil which has not been planted before to peach trees &c., and which has been lately cleared of wood. The way this is done, is to clear off the woodland, plant it in corn the first year, cultivating it as thoroughly as can be done for the stumps and roots. The second year the trees are set out, and almost invariably they do well. We have seen hundreds of acres set out in this way, and do not remember of one, if it had been properly planted and well attended to, but what did splendidly. Of course such lands must be of the quality and texture which successful growers deem the most desirable, at the same time being free from wet and dampness, either through natural or artificial drainage. Land which bakes, either through being naturally clayey, heavy and sticky, or mainly so through a want of drainage, will not do for peach trees, no matter how desirable it may be otherwise, and until these conditions are removed, it is worse than folly to buy and plant and 'tend the trees with the expectation of ever having a paying crop. The trees will die erelong, in the bare struggle for an existance. We have seen so many mistakes of this kind, we cannot help forcibly reminding all those who are interested, not to fall into the same errors.

[We are compelled from want of room, to postpone the conclusion of this excellent essay to next month, when the balance upon "preparation of the ground, planting, culivation and manuring, pruning &c, will be given.—Eds. MD. FAR.]

SQUASHES.—Good, palatable squashes, as prepared in any of their many styles of cooking, make a very acceptable dish, several kinds nearly equaling the sweet potato in richness and flavor.

We have had good success in raising the squash. Planting in a rich, moist loam, with a little careful tillage, generally brings an abundant crop.

Although some cannot keep them for any tength of time, we never have any difficulty. Take them off the vine when ripe and store them in a dry place until cold weather sets in, when those you wish to

keep should be taken out and put where they will not freeze, (the second story of a building is the best,) being careful not to have too warm or bruise them while handling them. We have now two squashes as sound as when first ripened, the one two years and the other, one year old.—*J. W. V., Milton, Pa., June, '83.*

THE TYLER BLACKCAP.—Mr. Purdy in his *Fruit Recorder*, gives it as his opinion, that the Tyler blackcap is largely the most productive berry of its kind, fairly out-yielding the Gregg and the Souhegan. The fruit is not quite so large, but of just as good quality. He says, writing July 24th, as follows:

Our son, who has charge of pickers, has just come in and says he has made a careful estimate as to the bearing qualities of the Gregg and Tyler, side by side, on same soil and with same chances every way, and according to his estimate of what has been picked and what are yet to be picked, claims that the Tyler is *largely* out-yielding the Gregg. One can hardly believe it when they see the Gregg's, but his figures for what have been picked and amount of berries on bushes, *plainly prove it as a fact.* With us the Souhegan is nowhere in comparison to the Tyler.

MARYLAND JERSEYS AT NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

Our townsman, Mr. S. M. Shoemaker, sent several of his high priced Jersey cattle for exhibition at this year's annual New York State Show, where a great number of superior cattle were on exhibition. We are glad to say, Mr. S received many first and second premiums Each member of his herd was decorated with a blue or red ribbon. This is highly complimentary to Mr. S. and to the state of Maryland, carrying off the honors at so great a fair as that of the New York state exhibition, competing as his stock did against such splendid Jerseys as were there shown in competion.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Lessons of the Fair,

BY A FAIR-GOER.

There are many who go to the fairs. Some go to see, some to be seen, others to make money, some few to learn. He who simply sees and does not receive instruction thereby, misses the greatest excellence of the fair. The fair is designed by some of those who most strongly support it, to be a money making or a sight seeing institution; but its better, higher object is to teach and instruct.

It must be confessed that this higher design is too often lost in the prominence of the lower. The fair season is now about over and my readers can say for themselves whether or not the fair afforded them amusement or intruction. It is a good time to discuss some of the features of the fair, to class them, and to commend them if they are instructive; and to condemn if they are not.

Did the horse race instruct the fair-goer in aught that was good? There can be but one answer to this. Of itself it taught no lesson that the farmer should desire to learn. But it taught the lesson of its abolition, and farmers let us hope, have learned to oppose it as one of the features of future fairs.

The improved stock has taught the receptive the value of judicious breeding with an object in the past and the field of improvement yet lying to be occupied in the future. The *ultimata thule* has not been reached. Fifty years hence the fair-goer will consider our stock of to-day as inferior and unprofitable as the fair-goer this Autumn reflected were the animals of half a century ago.

The improved machinery has taught that from now henceforth brains, and not brawn, shall occupy the most honored places on the farm. When the grain was sown or dropped by hand and covered with the harrow or hoe, was cut with the sickle or cradle, and threshed with the flail or by the hoofs of horses, muscle was the most needed commodity upon the farm; but in these days of two horse corn planters, grain drills, cultivators, self-binders and steam threshers, brain has gained the ascendancy over muscle. The brainy farmer will be the successful farmer.

The fair teaches farmers their own importance. This is a species of knowledge in which farmers are sadly lacking. It would seem that they had about come to the conclusion that they were nonentities used to fill vacancies simply as ciphers are employed in expressing numbers. They allow all other men to domineer over them and deprive them of their rights with the most perfect good humor. If the farmers would only attend the fairs more, see what they are doing and the importance of their work, they would be more disposed to have their dues.

The fair teaches the farmer the value of organization. The greatest obstacle in the way of the elevation of farmers is their want of organization. But if they can organize and make a good fair, why can not they organize and secure other results as gratifying. "United we stand, divided we fall." We have great need of standing together.

On the Wing.

Quissett, Mass., Sep. 4, 1883.

Dear Farmer:

Thinking that a somewhat descriptive letter would interest the readers of the FARMER, is our excuse for a departure from strictly agricultural matter.

If it is not fashionable, it is becoming more and more a custom for those leaving inland from the coast, to make an annual visit to the sea-shore, either for pleasure or for health, and perhaps both, and so for one of these or for some other reason we find ourselves stopping with a friend at this place.

The New England coast is fast being appropriated for the erection of summer resorts either public or private, and furnishes by its great irregularity, a wealth of opportunity that cannot be surpassed.

Quissett is situated upon a pretty little harbor, bearing the same name, on the east-side of Buzzards bay, which extending into the mainland forms cape Cod. All of that portion of Mass. including in what is called cape Cod, like much of the New England coast possesses no great agricultural value, but at the same time has many natural attractions as a resort for enjoyment. Its rolling surface presenting a great variety of scenery, its invigorating atmosphere, its opportunity for fishing, all combine to render it attractive. But we will deal more particularly with this immediate vicinity. At the extreme southern point of land and where the shore turns to the east, is Wood's Hall, a place of some pretensions as being in the direct line of travel to College city, which has rather been looked upon as the Paradise of summer resorts. As a consequence, persons of wealth have been attracted hither and many palatial residences have been erected, and grounds laid out to correspond. Among these are found the home of the president of the Pacific Guano Works, which are located at Wood's Hall. Near by is the fine residence of Mr. Fay, whose lawn is a thing of beauty and is admirably kept. The senior Mr. Fay has done much in the line of arboriculture, and the hillsides are beautiful by the growth of young trees of his planting. Further to the north are seen the fine residences of the Beebe's, with surrounding grounds presenting a pleasing appearance. In consequence of the contour of surface the country is not particularly adopted to agriculture, and hence the principal business has been fishing, which is still largely carried on and to some profit. The more eastern portion of the cape is largely devoted to cranberry culture, and to a profit. Cape Cod cranberries have a world-wide reputation.

The hills afford fair pasturage where not covered by a growth of stinted trees which are very numerous in some sections. The tillable land is found in the intervening land, between the hills where the soil possesses a fair degree of fertility. The growth and value of this section depends very largely upon the settlement of the country by men of extensive means, who deserve to secure for themselves summer residences, where they can breathe the pure and life-giving atmosphere of the ocean, and enjoy such luxuries as its bosom furnishes, and in this line a very marked change is being wrought. Within the past twenty-five years, the old and extensive farms have been broken up to furnish building lots and residences springing up on every hand, and the effect upon the value of land is magical. Tracts which some years ago would almost have been given away, or at most sold for a mere pittance, are now valued by the thousands of dollars are in demand, an evidence of the desire to settle down in the enjoyment of

these opportunities which the God of nature in his wisdom has furnished. We could give further descriptive papers if they were considered of interest in an agricultural journal.

WILLIAM H. YEOMANS.
Columbia, Conn.

[Would be glad to have them.—Eds. MD. FAR.]

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Chats with the Ladies for October.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

OCTOBER.

"The door-yard trees put on their Autumn bloom,
Purple and gold and crimson rich and strong,
That strain the light, and give my lonesome room
An atmosphere of sunset, all day long.

In giddy whirls the yellow elm leaves fall—
The rifled cherry boughs grow sere and thinned;
Yet still the morning-glories on the wall
Fling out there purple trumpets to the wind—

So full, but now of Summer's triumph-notes,
The moth's soft wing their powdery stamens stirred,
The bee's rich murmer filled their honeyed throats,
And the quick thrilling of the humming-bird.

In long, dreary nights of storm, I hear
The windy woodbine beat against the pane,
Trembling and shuddering with cold and fear,
Like one who seeks a shelter all in vain.

The sobbing rain declares the sad decline
Of all which erst was fair and sweet and young,
The tender fingers of the clambering vine
Are bruised against the trellis where they clung."

The fine bracing October days should be enjoyed by the girls and boys in out-door exercises and healthy amusements.

In our last chat the importance of kitchen education was urged as a con-comitant necessary to the higher education, of our girls, and without which, or some knowledge of the mysteries of substantial cookery, they would be unfitted to properly discharge the duties of either wife or mother.

I now propose to speak of the importance of girls at shool being taught not only ornamental stitching but made acquainted thoroughly with common sewing and mending, cutting and fitting plain garments, &c. It needs no argument to prove to our matrons the utility and necessity of such an education for the young girls soon to become heads of families. Joaquin Miller in *Scranton Republican*, thus sensibly writes upon this subject which he properly styles "Modern Accomplishments":—

"In the city of New York the people appear to be returning to first principles, and now instead of learning to play the piano in the public schools, the girls want to learn to sew *The Judge*, the great American comic paper of the country, is at the head of the movement and has set the ball a rolling with a poem not quite as pathetic as Hood's "Song of the Shirt," but almost as true to life as that great ballad. We take pleasure in quoting a specimen stanza of this reform-inspiring ditty:

She can buy a fancy bonnet, and she knows the use of dye;
She can sing in seven languages at sight;
She can talk æsthetic chatter and the art that's known as "high,"
She can do a ball concert every night;
She can paint on silk and velvet, and knows Swinburn's works by heart;
She can angle, she can snub and she can flirt;
But she can't put down a carpet, and she cannot make a tart,
And she cannot sew a button on a shirt.

In order to make the accomplishments of the New York girl complete, sewing is about to be introduced into the public schools, when needles and grammar, spools and syntax, yarn and history will jostle each other all day long, while the "sweet girl graduate" will study out the problem of putting a patch on her big brother's pants at the same time that she lays the foundation for her essay on the "Hereness of the Heretofore."

Catalogues Received.

FROM Ellwanger & Barry, Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. Seven numbers of catalogues of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers &c.

J. S. Coopeer's catalogue of Imported Jersey Cattle for sale at auction in New York city, Oct. 10th and 11th.

Peter Henderson & Co's catalogue of bulbs, and plants for fall planting, and seeds for fall sewing.

Gen C. P. Mattocks 10th catalogue of stock on Riverside Farm, near Portland, Maine. Neatly printed and well illustrated.

FROM E. P. Roe, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, N. J. Small fruits, plants and vines &c.

FROM John S Collins, Pleasant Valley Nurseries, Moorestown, N. J. Small fruit plants are specialties.

THANKS for the complimentery ticket from the Secretary, Mr. F. A. Markey, to attend the next Frederick County Fair, October 9th to 12th, inclusive. We indulge the hope to be able to accept this polite invitation and assist at this coming Fair, which we are sure will be if possible more successful, than even the previous annual meetings of this long-established association.

AN APOLOGY.—We have for once to apologize to our friends for the late issue o. our October number, which has been unavoidable, because the entire building in which our office and the large Agricultural Ware-house of our friends Messrs. E. Whitman Sons & Co. are located, has of late been in the utmost confusion owing to a thorough change and extensive addition to the length of the rooms, putting in a large elevator, and the many other improvements that have been made. In the future the building will present unusual attractiveness and the MARYLAND FARMER office renovated, enlarged, and in every way condusive to the comfort of our friends, —whose visits are ever welcome,— will at all times be open for their reception.

MR. EMORY'S sale of pure bred stock as advertised in this number of the FARMER will take place on October 26th. We trust the public will patronize this laudable effort of Mr. Emory to disseminate the improved breeds of stock. This sale is the 2nd annual sale, and it bids fair to surpass in success the one of last year.

WE again call attention to the coming Fair of Washington county, Md., to be held on the 16th of this month and continue for four days. This meeting of the Society will doubtless be one of the largest and best county-fairs ever held in Maryland. The large amount of superior stock, machinery &c., that will be present, and the important new feature of a combination sale of high-bred animals, must attract public attention and bring together immense crowds. Ho! then every one to the Fair at Hagerstown, Washington county, on the 16th instant.

THE LARGEST COW IN AMERICA, so termed by the Western press, belongs to John Pratt, of Chase county, Kansas. She is three years old and weighs 3,200 pounds.

LIVE STOCK REGISTER.

Pure Water for Hogs.

Mr. J. M. Stahl, writes as follows on the above subject in the *American Agriculturist* for August.

Swine are subject to the same laws that govern the health of other animals. Vegetable and animal matters, in a decaying state, when introduced into the system, are detrimental to health. Such matters are readily introduced with water, being taking directly into the stomach, soon pass to the intestines, &c., and become a source of disease. Experience and observation have convinced us that a large per cent. of swine disease is produced by the disease germs being carried into the stomach in foul water. It is now believed that this, and many other diseases, are due to minute organisms, so low in the scale of organic life, that it is difficult to say whether they are vegetable or animal; they are known by the general name of "disease germs." The vitality of these germs is not great, except when preserved, as it is in water containing organic substances. In the water of pools, ditches and ponds, the vitality is preserved for some time. If hogs are forced to drink such water, they take into their bodies the seeds of disease.

In August, hogs suffer the most from unwholesome water. During this month they require much water, and it is more essential that it be pure than during any other time of the year. The sun is hot, the air is dry, the earth parched; the hog has a compact body, formed largely by fat, small lungs imbeded in masses of flesh and fat, and with its nostrils near the ground. It inhales dust, which in parts consists of decaying vegetables. Everything conspires to produce a feverish state of the body, and a great thirst, to be allayed only by large quantities of cold water. But waters from creeks, ponds, and the like, are at this season the most heated. The greatest fatality among swine is in September and October. As the period from the inception of the disease to its fatal termination in from thirty to forty days, it would appear that the disease germs are most often taken into the body of the animal in August.

Feeding Sheep.

You must not collect a large flock of sheep before you get something for them to eat, and that something must be their natural food. That food is grass—grass that is sodded and perenial. The stomach of a sheep is small, and he eats but little at a time, and wants that little very often, and every two or three hours; hence he should be where he can gather his own food. The tendency of all kinds of grain and dry provender is to make sheep unhealthy. A little grain before sending to the shambles is useful to help fatten, but fat itself is a disease and should be avoided so far as possible in all breeding animals. Likewise should the other extreme—viz: poverty—be avoided. I have seen sheep degenerate from poverty more in one generation than they could be improved in two or three. I have seen much in the papers about sheep loving bitter weeds, briars, sassafras and the like, and they are good scavengers for a foul farm. My sheep love the cultivated grasses best. I remember once to have killed some sassafras with sheep. It was done by confining them too long to the same territory as well as to the same food. Sheep need to have their pasture changed at least once a month. And this new pasture is as much to force them to sleep in a new place as it is to give a variety of food. No sheep can be healthy long that sleeps on the same place and over his own excrement every night.—*Farming World.*

Value of Sheep.

Sheep return to the soil, in manure, the largest percentage of the manurial value of the food consumed of any other animal. According to accurate experiments, made at German experiments station, where the food given and the manure obtained, were carfully analyzed, 95 per cent. of all the manural elements of the food consumed, in their manure, solid and liquid. This is in accord with the Spanish problem, that "the hoof of the sheep is golden." With a view to the renovation of a worn out farm, sheep is the most profitable stock that could be kept. They pay a large return in fleece or mutton for the food consumed, and the largest in manure.—*Ex.*

Contents for October Number.

GEN. CHARLES P. MATTOCKS, of Portland, had horses, cattle, sheep, swine, dogs, hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and fan-tail pigeons from his farm on exhibition at the Eastern Maine Fair, in Bangor. He had previously exhibited this year at the New England, Maine State, and Cumberland County Fairs, and carried off 47 first prizes, 25 second prizes and 4 third prizes.